

# SMOG BOARD FORCES CITY TO CLOSE DUMP

## Rider Killed as Scooter Crashes into Truck



TRAGEDY . . . Fredrick Raymond Cowan became the city's first traffic victim of the year when he was killed as his motor scooter struck the rear of a parked truck Tuesday night.—Herald photo.

## Local Factory Worker Killed as Scooter Strikes Truck

A 38-year-old motor scooter rider, an employee of American Standard Radiator Corporation, was killed instantly late Tuesday night when he crashed into the rear of a parked truck on 190th street between Crenshaw boulevard and Prairie avenue.

The victim was listed as Fredrick Raymond Cowan, of 14801 Manzel street in the Lawndale area.

He was the brother of Mrs. Mildred Gilbert, of 1107 Anapola avenue.

Police Officers Captain Wilard Haslam and Patrolman Donald Clark reported that the driver of the truck, said to be John E. Fowler, 51, 15332 Purche st., Gardena, had parked his truck on the north side of 190th street because he ran out of gas. The officers said that he was attempting to raise a friend, Manuel Silveria, 1755 West 190th street, to obtain some gasoline when the crash occurred.

Later investigation indicated that there was a supply of gasoline in the truck sufficient to operate the vehicle for 15-30 minutes, police said.

Fowler was held at the Torrance Police station until Wednesday morning when he was released after being served with a summons to appear at a coroner's inquest 21 day morning.

The inquest will be held at the Stone and Myers Mortuary.

Funeral services for the victim, a native of Kempner, Texas,

will be held in the Stone and Myers Chapel at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Burial will be in the Roosevelt Memorial Park.

He is survived by his parents,

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse W. Cowan, of Lawndale; his sister, Mrs. Gilbert, and two brothers, Victor of Los Angeles and Elliot of Big Bear Lake.

The long sought after children's playground for the fast growing population of the 'Shoestring Strip' moved a step toward realization this week as the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation department announced that it had selected a seven acre tract for the playground.

Now divided into 20 lots, the property is bounded by Normandie avenue, Halldale avenue, 225 street and a line about 150 feet north of 224th street.

The Bureau of Right-of-way and Land will conduct private negotiations with the owners of the 20 parcels of land which are vacant with the exception of one or two homes. Negotiations with property owners will begin immediately, according to officials of the department.

Definite plans for the playground's facilities have not yet been prepared. However, officials said that the project probably will include play equipment for children, an athletic field, a community clubhouse, and game courts.

Grass and shrubs would be utilized to give the playground a park-like appearance.

Although cost of the land has not yet been estimated, officials said the financing of the project would come from a playground bond fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse W. Cowan, of Lawndale; his sister, Mrs. Gilbert, and two brothers, Victor of Los Angeles and Elliot of Big Bear Lake.

Ben Haggott, Seaside Ranches developer, this week announced that grading operations are now under way on the second section of Seaside Ranches.

Haggott said that construction of the 40 new homes is scheduled to begin sometime next week.

The project, to cost an estimated \$350,000 will connect the existing tract with a school site for the area now under development. It is to occupy a 10-acre site on the easterly extension on Sharynne Lane.

The two-bedroom homes will be both stucco and frame construction with shingled roofs and two-car garages. They will be priced for the middle-class income, said Haggott.

PHOTO SOLICITOR CITED BY POLICE

Torrance police last Saturday charged James P. McGrath on a charge of soliciting for a San Pedro photo studio without a license.

SMASHED . . . Four unclaimed one-armed bandits received the hammer treatment from Chief of Police John Stroh this week as City Clerk A. H. Bartlett waited to collect \$105.80 in the machines for deposit in the city treasury. The machines, said to belong to a Los Angeles firm were seized by the district attorney's office in a "raid" on the V.F.W. Hall last January.—Herald Photo.

# TORRANCE HERALD

35th YEAR—No. 17 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY APRIL 28, 1949 Twenty-four Pages 10c PER COPY

## Playgrounds for Shoestring Area Planned by L.A.

The long sought after children's playground for the fast growing population of the 'Shoestring Strip' moved a step toward realization this week as the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation department announced that it had selected a seven acre tract for the playground.

Now divided into 20 lots, the property is bounded by Normandie avenue, Halldale avenue, 225 street and a line about 150 feet north of 224th street.

The Bureau of Right-of-way and Land will conduct private negotiations with the owners of the 20 parcels of land which are vacant with the exception of one or two homes. Negotiations with property owners will begin immediately, according to officials of the department.

Definite plans for the playground's facilities have not yet been prepared. However, officials said that the project probably will include play equipment for children, an athletic field, a community clubhouse, and game courts.

Grass and shrubs would be utilized to give the playground a park-like appearance.

Although cost of the land has not yet been estimated, officials said the financing of the project would come from a playground bond fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse W. Cowan, of Lawndale; his sister, Mrs. Gilbert, and two brothers, Victor of Los Angeles and Elliot of Big Bear Lake.

Ben Haggott, Seaside Ranches developer, this week announced that grading operations are now under way on the second section of Seaside Ranches.

Haggott said that construction of the 40 new homes is scheduled to begin sometime next week.

The project, to cost an estimated \$350,000 will connect the existing tract with a school site for the area now under development. It is to occupy a 10-acre site on the easterly extension on Sharynne Lane.

The two-bedroom homes will be both stucco and frame construction with shingled roofs and two-car garages. They will be priced for the middle-class income, said Haggott.

PHOTO SOLICITOR CITED BY POLICE

Torrance police last Saturday charged James P. McGrath on a charge of soliciting for a San Pedro photo studio without a license.

SMASHED . . . Four unclaimed one-armed bandits received the hammer treatment from Chief of Police John Stroh this week as City Clerk A. H. Bartlett waited to collect \$105.80 in the machines for deposit in the city treasury. The machines, said to belong to a Los Angeles firm were seized by the district attorney's office in a "raid" on the V.F.W. Hall last January.—Herald Photo.



DYING EMBERS . . . Superior Court Judge Clarence Kincaid signed an injunction Tuesday which stopped the city from burning rubbish at the city dump. The injunction was sought by the County Smog Control Board.—Herald Photo.

## Edna Mae Snell Leads in Torrance Queen Title Race

### Final Rites Held for Air Crash Victim

Admiring fellow flyers and friends paid their last respects in Inglewood yesterday to Art Chester, famed Torrance Airport racing pilot and plane builder who was killed Sunday rounding a pylon in the first annual America Gold Cup closed course races.

The 49-year-old veteran speed pilot's fatal plunge was witnessed from the stands by his wife, Trudy, and son Tommy, 17.

Chester was in the third lap of the race when his plane was apparently caught in the propeller wash of the racer just ahead, according to race officials.

Thousands of horror-struck spectators witnessed the accident which occurred as Chester's fast midget craft was rounding the east pylon of the course directly opposite the grandstand.

One of America's best-known aviation barnstormers, Chester had been building midget planes at the local air field and racing them throughout the country.

He lived at 2500 W. 73rd street, Los Angeles, but he and his family were planning to move to the Palos Verdes Hills, friends here advised.

President of the Professional Race Pilots Association, Chester had been accumulating racing honors since 1926. He began flying in 1920.

He had a close brush with death more than 11 years ago in

(Continued on Page 3)

Zooming to the lead in the first week of the race for the title of Queen of Torrance, Edna Mae Snell, a Columbia Steel employee, displayed atomic form in amassing 10,120 votes.

In second place was Della Cooper, a student at Torrance High School, with 8,565 votes.

Jerry Speck, telephone operator, reined at third place with 7075 votes.

Standings at the end of the first week of the Junior Woman's Club fund-raising campaign for all seven candidates are:

Edna Mae Snell	10,120
Della Cooper	8,565
Jerry Speck	7,075
Julia Menni	7,000
Pat Cleere	5,330
Joyce Franzen	1,100
Marlene Quaggin	600

For leading the race at the end of one week the three top girls were given "lap money" of 100, 50, and 25 bonus votes respectively. Next week additional bonus votes will be awarded to the top three girls who sell the most votes during the second week of the campaign.

Purpose of the four-week campaign is to raise funds for the construction of a YWCA building, according to Mrs. Ethel Richardson, chairman of the contest.

Mrs. Richardson announced last night that four of the contestants have been adopted by sponsors. The four who have announced their sponsors are: Pat Cleere—Lions Club; Marlene Quaggin—Optimist Club; Jerry Speck—American Standard Radiator Corporation; and Julia Menni—Pacific Electric Shops.



ON TOP . . . Edna Mae Snell—10,120 votes for Torrance Queen.

REALTY BOARD ADDS FOUR NEW DIRECTORS

The Torrance-Lomita Realty Board this week enlarged its board of directors from five to nine members with the appointment of Perry Connitt, James Elliott, Jerry Alter and Paul Vonderahe. The new appointees will serve for the balance of the 1949 term.

President W. E. Bowen announced the action which was taken at Monday evening's meeting in the city courtroom.

### City Street Dept. Caps Old Oil Well

Acting on direct orders from City Manager George Stevens, members of the city street department this week welded a steel cap over an abandoned oil well at 233rd street between Normandie and Eshelman avenues.

Although the recently enacted oil ordinance does not specifically allow a public official or department to cap an abandoned well or fill in a dangerous hole or opening of any kind, Stevens ordered the capping in order to prevent a recurrence of the Kathy Fiscus tragedy in which the three-year-old San Marino girl was trapped in an old water well. The well Stevens ordered capped was large enough to trap a grown man.

City Grants Santa Fe Franchise

The city council Wednesday night granted a franchise to the Santa Fe Railway to install a spur to and from the National Electric Products Co. in the southern portion of the city.

The ordinance includes a provision that a flagman will proceed trains to warn motorists at the intersections of Torrance, vards.

### Gulp!

## DOCTOR REMOVES BRUSH FROM NIECE'S STOMACH

Seventeen-year-old Joan Wood probably has the world's best reason for not brushing her teeth.

Last time she tried it she swallowed the tooth brush!

It was a case of "out of the frying pan into the fire" for the niece of Board of Education President, Dr. Howard A. Wood.

About two weeks ago, Joan, who lives in Laguna Beach was brushing her teeth when she dislodged a false tooth which replaced one she knocked out when she was quite young.

She started to swallow the tooth and in attempting to remove it from her throat—she swallowed the brush.

Dr. Wood performed an operation on his niece at the Torrance Memorial Hospital last Thursday to remove the brush.

Joan, the daughter of Dr. Leonard Wood of the Los Angeles City Health Department, was a bit embarrassed about the whole thing and declined to have her picture made because it made her laugh and hurt her "tummy."

Dr. Wood puffed, "I was afraid for a while that Joan Wood not clean her teeth any more after her near brush with tragedy."

## Two Men Bitten By Rattlers in Rolling Hills

A snake warning was issued today by police and deputy sheriffs after two Rolling Hills residents were bitten by rattlesnakes, one seriously, in a space of three days.

Llewellyn Phillips, Jr. 20, was released Saturday from the Torrance Memorial hospital after he was struck Wednesday on McCarrell's ranch in Rolling Hills.

The Rolling Hills youth was bitten on the ankle while fixing a fence on the ranch. Friends said he expects to be on crutches for three weeks.

Al Weston was struck on the right index finger Saturday by a baby rattler while digging weeds on his Portuguese Bend Road property. His condition was never considered serious although serum was administered.

Torrance police warned residents in the Rolling Hills area to keep a sharp lookout for the snakes which are "down low" and coming out of hibernation. Their advice was to stay away from brush and rocks.

### Garbage, rubber, trash and other waste materials are being only partially burned in the open dump, thus throwing life-endangering gases into the air, the suit alleges.

The Torrance steel plant, turning out about 200,000 tons of steel products a year, is estimated by Air Pollution Control officials to be putting into the atmosphere now approximately 480 pounds of metal dust per hour. The legal limit for any plant is 40 pounds per hour. Under the proposed installations the output of metal dust will be reduced to about 18 pounds per hour, figured on a basis of .04 grains per cubic foot of gases.

Nadine in the complaint which closed the city dump were members of the city's official family including Mayor J. Hugh Sherry, Jr., City Engineer George Stevens and all of the Torrance councilmen.

Garbage, rubber, trash and other waste materials are being only partially burned in the open dump, thus throwing life-endangering gases into the air, the suit alleges.

The court filing seeks perpetual restraint of the city of Torrance from maintaining the nuisance.

Stevens stated that just what procedure the city would take to dispose of its combustible material was largely a matter of conjecture. He pointed out that the present dump soon

(Continued on Page 9)

**ON THE INSIDE**

For where and what school your children will attend next year turn to page three—and a story headed "Junior High Doomed." For data on who'll be taken for tokens see the Los Angeles "parachute" story on page 19, headed "Rapid Rail".

Churches	18
Classified	20-23
Comics	10
Crossword Puzzle	12
Hospital Cases	10
Kitchen Counsellor	24
Letters to the Editor	9
Sports	4
S'cortatorials	10
Women's Activities	13-24